

IAN BRUCE STEVENS

Introduction

We are here to celebrate Ian's life - the life of a fine upstanding man - a man who was so quiet & unassuming that this fact was not 'advertised' for the world to see - a man who I feel had the philosophy that 'actions speak better than words'.

I speak these words for myself & Kay, Ian's cousins from his mother's side of the family.

Family

Ian's parents were Nancy & Fred Stevens & Ian was their only child.

Sadly Fred passed away in 1966 & Nancy in 1987.

Fred had been previously married with 2 sons, George & Richard (known as Dick) - so that Ian, although technically an only child actually had 2 brothers.

George is seriously ill & unable to be with us today. Unfortunately Dick has passed away.

Ian didn't marry, choosing to remain single. In fact I have been told that when reasonably young Ian announced 'I am going to be a bachelor'. I don't know why some lovely girl didn't 'snap him up' & change his mind for he would have made any woman a fine husband.

On Nancy's side of the family Ian had 5 cousins - myself - Annette only child of Nancy's sister, Hazel, Kay & Merle, daughters of Nancy's brother, Vic, - Beverly & Duncan, daughter & son of Nancy's brother Denzil.

On Fred's side of the family Ian had a nephew, Matthew & a niece, Jennifer (George's son & daughter) and a nephew, Christopher (Chris) (the son of Dick).

Jennifer & Mathew are here today along with 4 of their immediate family members.

Early Life

Ian's mother & father were loving & dedicated parents - wonderful role models.

Ian's father had been in both world wars & worked in Civil Aviation. His occupation determined where they would live.

Ian's first years were spent in Brisbane. My earliest memory of him was when he was somewhere around the age of 4 at a farewell party when the family were moving to Sydney. Ian & I ate little cakes that resembled pigs & frogs. Even this year I teased Ian & said 'Do you remember the pigs & frogs we ate as children?' I am a 'sweet-tooth' & love food. Ian rolled his eyes & looked quizzically at me as if to say 'She's off again with her reminiscing'. He didn't say if he remembered or not.

The family moved to Sydney. I remember playing with Ian in his toy car - the kind you sit in & pedal, & putting on a concert for our parents - the main idea being to get our mothers to make costumes for us & to 'take around the hat' after the performance.

My mother & Ian's mother were very close. When we visited in Sydney they would take us to Manly & we both loved those 'outings'.

I am not sure of Ian's age when Fred's work took the family to Melbourne. I remember playing cricket with him in the back yard. He attempted to teach me how to ride a bike - unsuccessfully I'm afraid. I still can't ride today & it wasn't Ian's lack of skill as a teacher that he didn't succeed.

Early Education

Ian attended primary school at Glen Iris, a Melbourne suburb & high school at Melbourne High where he matriculated in 1966, just after losing his father. I think the photo on the 'Order of Service' was taken at that time.

Work in Melbourne

After matriculation Ian went to work for the Commonwealth Government in the mapping section.

I think he may have wanted to be a pilot, but at that time a suitable opportunity didn't occur.

He had a second job at a suburban movie theatre as an usher - hard to remember those days when there were actually theatre ushers.

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The move to Brisbane

In 1966 Fred passed away. Nancy's family lived in Brisbane.

I feel sure that for his mother's sake Ian instigated a move for he & his mother - to Brisbane.

In 1973 that move took place & they bought a house at the Gap in Brisbane.

Life in Brisbane

Ian initially had several jobs in Brisbane. He even drove a taxi for a while.

Then again worked for the Commonwealth Government.

While in Brisbane he studied while still working.

His major qualifications were:-

1978 - Certificate in Land & Engineering Survey Drafting

(Department of Technical & Further Education , NSW)

1989 - Associate Diploma of Applied Science (Mathematics & Computing)

(Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education , Q)

2004 - Associate Degree in Civil Engineering (The University of Southern Queensland)

This was achieved even after having been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease

All of these were done as external studies while working - not a ' mean feat '.

After working for the Commonwealth Government in Queensland , Ian worked as a draftsman with several private companies , the last being Woodward & Clyde (Environmental Engineers , I think).

Ill health then forced him to retire.

Ian - the Man

His talent as a draftsman - Ian was precise & meticulous & I know it would have been evident in his work. He designed an extension for his friends Di & Piet Brouwer & the builder was very impressed with his efforts.

His passion - Ian loved flying. When in Melbourne he worked 2 jobs so that he could pay to learn to fly, this being the hard way to do it. For single engine planes he became a qualified pilot with an Instrument Rating & Instructor's Certificate. He took me up on a number of occasions & I really enjoyed the experience & had every confidence in his expertise. He even picked up a little work in the area of charter flights & as an instructor.

His Manner - He was ' a proper gentleman ' - very courteous. He would always open doors for women. even now we have equal rights for women & some men don't deem such things as necessary. He was very quiet & non-confrontational. He liked to keep personal things ' close to him ' , and was fiercely independent - which brings me to the next characteristic:-

Kindness & Consideration - He never wanted to trouble other people, even at his own expense. Ian had a life in Melbourne but I feel sure he sacrificed his life in Melbourne to bring his mother up to Brisbane so that she could be near family. He looked after his mother superbly especially during the years of her ailing health until she passed away in 1987. He was awarded a certificate of appreciation for helping the disabled. He helped them by designing devices to enable them to stay in their own homes. (technical support) Kay & I more or less had to ' dig this information out of ' Ian, for he was certainly not boastful.

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Modesty - We have today , a society filled with advertising. You even have to advertise yourself . It's almost to get anywhere you have to ' beat your chest ' & tell the world how wonderful you are. Ian was totally the reverse of this.

Ethics - Ian was of the utmost integrity. He always did what was 'right'. If he said he would do something he would do it. If he said he would be there he would be there. In 1995 he accompanied me to the funeral director to organise my mother's funeral giving me much needed support. Little did I know that 15 years later I would be organising his funeral. - 62 is too young.

His Sense of Humour - and this is how I would like us to remember Ian Ian wasn't jolly & jovial but he did have a subtle dry 'wit'. He liked programs like ' Keeping up Appearances ' , 'Yes , Minister ' , & ' the Goons ' . He liked animals , but he only ever had 1 pet & that was a cat 'Smokey ' . My last cat was feisty & called ' Jessie ' . Ian loved cats but was wary of 'Jessie' , as were many other people. I would tease Ian & say what an 'angel' 'Jessie' was. He would roll his eyes, think about it & say something like ' yes , but what about the teeth ? ' . When I would finish a meal he would look at my plate & say ' struth ' , in a teasing sort of way Kay & I will try to think of Ian when he was smiling , happy & witty. Kay & I loved having Ian in our lives & feel very privileged. We will miss you Ian .

Thank you everyone both relatives & friends who have given us support & attended this celebration of Ian's life today.

Thank you to Rev Jim Tame for conducting the service

Wayne Butler & K.M. Smith for their organisation

Holy Cross for the catering.

Ian , may you Rest in Peace.